



NARFE NEWSLETTER

GREATER BOWIE-CROFTON AREA CHAPTER 1747

National Active And Retired Federal Employees Association

Volume 27, No. 3

November 2006

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are held at Bowie City Hall (2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie) on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 A.M. in Conference Room 204. There is never a charge to attend and all meetings are open to the public.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS are held the first Thursday of the month at 9:00 A.M. in Conference Room 125, Bowie Senior Center. All chapter members are welcome.

NOTE: Chapter meetings are cancelled when Prince George's County schools are closed due to inclement weather. Otherwise, meetings are held as scheduled.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ed Bice

I wish to thank members of our chapter and the Maryland Federation for their financial support that paid for part of my expenses while representing the chapter at NARFE's national convention.

I encourage all members to read the November issue of NARFE *Retirement Life*. The magazine has must-read reports on legislation, the National Convention and FEHBP Open Season.

At the Convention the National Alzheimer's Association gave a report regarding research being conducted on ten new compounds. These drugs are disease-modifying and are aimed at changing the course of the disease instead of treating its symptoms. NARFE's contributions are instrumental in accelerating research for new therapies for Alzheimer's disease. NARFE has raised approximately \$6.5 million for Alzheimer's disease research and hopes to reach \$7 million by 2008.



The next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for retirees, scheduled for January 2007, will be 3.3 percent, and the FERS annuity will be 2.3 percent.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

❖ *General Meeting*. Thursday, November 16, 10:00 A.M. Program: Challenges and Opportunities in Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties. See page 2 for details.

❖ *Holiday Luncheon*. December 14, 2006. Rip's Restaurant, Bowie. See page 3 for details.

❖ *General Meeting*. Thursday, January 18, 10:00 A.M. Program: Tax Tips



Kellie Armstead, Assistant Chief Deputy to Lynn Skerpon, Registrar of Wills, speaks to members at the October Meeting

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Paul Schuette

Information about the new Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program is coming to us in bits and pieces.

Ten insurance carriers have been awarded contracts by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM)

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to offer this supplemental coverage, which was mandated by Congress in 2004.

As of mid-October, tables listing the costs of the insurance had been released by OPM, but details about the specific benefits those premiums will buy were not yet available. OPM plans to have detailed information about benefits posted on its web site before the annual health insurance open season, which starts Nov. 13 and ends Dec. 11.

Dental plans will provide coverage of preventive services (100 percent), intermediate services such as fillings or extractions (55 percent to 80 percent), and major services such as crowns and bridges (35 percent to 50 percent).

Vision plans will pay for all or part of the cost of annual eye examinations, lenses and frames, but the frame allowance is capped at \$130.

Monthly premiums for dental coverage in our area will range from a low of \$20.89 a month for an individual up to highs of \$73.95 a month for self-plus-one or \$110.93 a month for self and family, depending on the carrier and type of coverage selected.

The dental plans also include a maximum annual per person benefit of \$1200 a year for most plans. It would be wise to compare the annual premium cost to the maximum benefit available when considering these plans.

Monthly premiums for vision coverage will range from \$5.70 a month for an individual to \$23.42 for self-plus-one or \$35.12 for self and family, again depending on the carrier and type of coverage selected.

Insurees will pay the full cost of the coverage with no contribution from the government as there is in the traditional Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

Employees and retirees who want dental or vision coverage, or both, will be able to sign up on the Internet, by phone, or by mail during the open season. More details on that process are still to come.

MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Campbell

Honorary Membership: Thanks for 20 Years in NARFE

A special category of NARFE membership proudly recognizes those members who have loyally supported the association for at least 20 years and who have reached the age of 85. For those who fill these two requirements, both national and chapter dues are waived. In further recognition of their achievement, they also receive a special Honorary Membership card and an embossed Congratulatory Certificate

from NARFE's national officers. These awards are usually presented to the honorees at a chapter membership meeting or other special event.

Currently Chapter 1747 has on its roster 13 honorary members. They are: **Mario A. Acampora; Alfred O. Andersen; Kathleen H. Basquill; Florence Kopstein; Pauline G. Kostas; Herschel C. Kyle; Steven I. Landis; Leroy R. Leifer; Lorraine C. Meuers; Marie V. Murphy; Morris Osband; Max Teitelbaum; and Mayer Weinblatt**, our current assistant treasurer.

If you meet the two criteria for honorary membership, or know a chapter member who might, please call me at 301-464-6372 or e-mail me at Dcbowie@aol.com. We will be proud to add you/them to our list of long-time, dedicated supporters.



A Special Thanks: My gratitude to the members of Chapter 1747 for helping to support my participation as a delegate to the recent NARFE national convention in Albuquerque. Being part of the decision-making process of the association and voting on your behalf and in your best interests was truly a wonderful and highly worthwhile opportunity -- and I was proud to be there.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Richard Blanton
Beverly Coleman
Kelly Garten**

**Paul Garten
Amy Hegarty
Richard Leaf**

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Our program for this month will feature Mr. Ed Reilly, who represents District 7 on the Anne Arundel County Council; and Mr. Doug Peters, who represents District 4 on the Prince George's County Council. This meeting will be an excellent opportunity to explore some of the issues facing the Bowie-Crofton area in the coming years. Bring your questions about transportation, senior housing, and other issues to the meeting and participate in the question-and-answer session following the general presentation.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

November 7
November 11
November 16
November 23

Election Day
Veterans Day
General Meeting
Thanksgiving

CHAPTER 1747 TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on: September 1, 2006	\$4780.08
Income:	584.73
Expenses:	246.00
Reserves:	1597.34
Balance on: September 30, 2006	\$3521.47

FROM THE EDITOR

Frances Steburg

In the September newsletter I wrote an ISO article searching for someone to help publish the newsletter. Well, I got a response. Jessica Forman stepped up and volunteered to work with me. She is a new member of NARFE who is married to a current federal employee who is also a member of NARFE. If you need to get in touch with either of us, please check the phone numbers and e-mail addresses on page 4 .

Please welcome Jess and give her your support in publishing the newsletter. And I would like to say a huge THANK YOU.



Newsletter Mailing Labels

If you and your spouse or significant other are receiving individual copies of the newsletter, it is because we are now having our mailing labels printed by NARFE headquarters. If you would like to cut down on our mailing costs, please send an e-mail to Frances Steburg at feks@msn.com. In the e-mail, please indicate the name you would like to be dropped along with your ZIP Code plus 4, which is included on the mailing label on page 4.. Our labels are sorted by Zip Code and are not in alphabetical order.

IMPORTANT FEDERAL CONTACTS

All are addressed as "The Honorable"

President George W. Bush <i>president@whitehouse.gov</i>	202-456-1111	
Senator Barbara A. Mikulski <i>www.mikulski@senate.gov</i>	202-224-4654	fax: 202-224-8858
Senator Paul S. Sarbanes <i>www.sarbanes@senate.gov</i>	202-224-4524	fax: 202-224-1651
Representative Benjamin Cardin District 3 <i>www.cardin.house.gov</i>	202-225-4016	fax: 202-225-9219
Representative Steny Hoyer District 5 <i>www.hoyer.house.gov</i>	202-225-4131	fax: 202-225-4300
Representative Albert Wynn District 4 <i>www.wynn.house.gov</i>	202-225-8699	fax: 202-225-8714

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to the family and friends of:

Jonas L. Bassen (*founding/honorary member*)

Loyal G. M. LaForest

Robert S. Oringel

Emil Bouchard (*listed last month, was also a founding member*)

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 14, 2006
Rip's Restaurant

Social — 11:30; Lunch — 12:00 to 2:00

Buffet Selections

Roast Beef, Roast Turkey, Broiled Cod

Tossed Salad

Mashed Ptoatoes, Green Beans,
Stewed Tomatoes

Rolls and Butter

Tea, Coffee, Soda



Cost: \$16.00 per person

Sign up deadline: December 7, 2006

Make check payable to NARFE Chapter 1747

Sign up at the November
General Meeting or call

Barbara Wheatley 301-352-6241

Mary Catloth 301-390-2206

Greater Bowie-Crofton Area NARFE News

NARFE News is published ten times a year (monthly from September through June) by Greater Bowie-Crofton Area Chapter 1747, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, P. O. Box 504, Bowie, MD 20718-0504.

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Greater Bowie-Crofton Area
NARFE Chapter 1747
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1st Vice President	Dorothy Campbell	301-464-6372	Dcbowie@aol.com
2nd Vice President	Barbara Wheatley	301-352-6241	wheatley0@aol.com
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Treasurer	Paul Schuette	301-262-0975	pschuette@comcast.net
Assistant Treasurer	Mayer Weinblatt	301-262-3264	

Committee Chairs

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	Lee Tuveson	301-262-3164	
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Activity Coordinators

Alzheimer's Fund	Maria Francer	301-464-5758	
Community Service	VACANT		
Meeting Sign-In/Greeter	Mary Catloth	301-390-2206	mcatloth@aol.com
NARFE-Net Coordinator	VACANT		
NARFE-PAC	Ed Bice	301-464-3748	DEBice@netzero.net
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Refreshments	Jack Calloway	301-262-3457	
	Dave Galliard	301-262-7261	
	Tom Page	301-262-3418	
Events Coordinator	VACANT		
Sunshine	Doris Gordon	301-262-8618	

Next Meeting November 16, 2006 Focus: NARFE and Politics